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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/746,619	12/21/2000	Steven D. Woods	7784-000156	1126

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Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/746,619

Applicant(s)

WOODS ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed 9/23/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-17,19,20 and 22-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-17,19,20 and 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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This is in response to Request for Continued Examination filed September 23, 2005 in which claims 1, 3-17, 19-20 and 22-27 are pending.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed September 23, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on pages 9-10:

"Wical does not teach organizing technology-specific data in a controlled lexicon such that a common collaboration group can ascertain risk or other factors for specific projects."

Examiner responds:

MPEP.2106. requires Office personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Wical discloses a knowledge catalog processor accesses the knowledge catalog to classify input terminology (see abstract, col. 41, lines 25-64, Wical) that reads on a controlled lexicon containing technology-specific terminology data. Nichols discloses private network exchange with multiple service providers, collaboration applications and a directory service that allows the users access to collaboration services on ANX network catalog ([0074]; [0093]; [0140] and [0164], Nichols) and thus reads on a common collaboration group for specific projects. Therefore, The combination system of Horovitz, Wical and Nichols disclose all limitations of the claimed invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-20 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horovitz et al. (US Patent 6,389,409) of record in view of Wical (US Patent 6,487,545) of record and further in view of Nichols et al. (US Pub. 2003/0055652 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Horovitz discloses a technology management system comprising:

- a web-based collaboration tool for enabling individual steward (company A, Fig 2, is equivalent to an individual steward) to populate a card catalog based on collaboration input (see col. 3, lines 54-57 and col. 5, lines 47-54, Horovitz). Please note that "Internet online catalog" is equivalent to web-based collaboration tool, "LinkGraph" is equivalent to card catalog and the "input received from a multiple information resources" reads on the collaboration input; and
- Fig. 2 of Horovitz teaches an "Internet site" that is equivalent to a web portal for maintaining a bookshelf of links to entries in the card catalog, the web portal further accessing the bookshelf based on search input catalog (see col. 4, lines 52-53 and col. 5, lines 40-43 and col.6, lines 45-62, Horovitz).

Horovitz, however, does not disclose a controlled lexicon containing technology-specific terminology data. Wical, on the other hand, discloses a knowledge catalog processor accesses

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the knowledge catalog to classify input terminology (see abstract, col. 41, lines 25-53, Wical) that reads on a controlled lexicon containing technology-specific terminology data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Horovitz to include the claimed feature as taught by Wical. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide an efficient system that has an ability to scan the multiple information (see col. 2, lines 44-45, Horovitz).

Horovitz and Wical combination does not disclose different users within common or different collaboration groups to access information stored in the card catalog. Nichols discloses private network exchange with multiple service providers, collaboration applications and a directory service that allows the users access to collaboration services on ANX network catalog ([0074]; [0093]; [0140] and [0164], Nichols). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Horovitz and Wical to include the claimed feature as taught by Nichols. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide the users cooperative capabilities of sharing information in private network (paragraphs [0014] and [0093], Nichols).

Regarding claim 3, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses that the collaboration tool retrieves the collaboration input directly from at least one of the stewards (see col. 7, lines 35-38, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 4, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses that the collaboration tool retrieves the collaboration input from an electronic file, at least one of the stewards placing the collaboration input in the electronic file (see col. 7, lines 35-41, Horovitz).

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Regarding claim 5, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses that the collaboration tool converts the collaboration input into metadata, the collaboration input having a corresponding content (see col. 17, lines 17-21, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 6, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses “the category or the input” (col.6, line 36, Horovitz) corresponds to the keyword attribute information, the keyword attribute information defining keywords relating to the content.

Regarding claim 7, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the collaboration tool further converts the technology-specific terminology data into metadata based on the collaboration input (see col. 7, lines 49-67, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 8, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the category or ranks the link of the content that reads on the readiness attribute information, the readiness attribute information defining a readiness for linking of the content to the bookshelf (see col. 7, lines 16-18, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 9, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the metadata includes steward attribute information, the steward attribute information defining a responsible party for the content. The information about “company A” (Fig.2, Horovitz) corresponds to the steward attribute information.

Regarding claim 10, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the information about “company A” in Fig.2 of Horovitz that reads on author attribute information, the author attribute information defining an author of the content.

Regarding claim 11, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the metadata includes location attribute information, the location attribute information defining a file location

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of the content (see col. 6, lines 45-57, Horovitz). Please note that “URL” is the location information defining a file location of the content.

Regarding claim 12, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the metadata includes notification attribute information, the notification attribute information defining individuals to be notified of the conversion of the collaboration input into metadata (see col. 17, lines 17-21, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 13, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the security attribute information. But, it is obvious to obtain security requirements for accessing the content.

Regarding claim 14, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the metadata includes date attribute information, the date attribute information defining a conversion date for the collaboration input (see col. 8, lines 46-47, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 15, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the metadata includes title attribute information, the title attribute information defining a title for the content (see col. 6, line 59, Horovitz). “Catalog name” is equivalent to the title of the content.

Regarding claim 16, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the collaboration tool interacts with the card catalog over a networking connection (see Fig.2, Horovitz).

Regarding claims 17 and 20, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the networking connection comprises one of an Internet connection and an intranet connection (see col. 5, lines 32-33, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 19, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the web portal interacts with the card catalog over a networking connection (see col. 5, lines 47-51, Horovitz).

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Regarding claim 22. The management system of claim 1 wherein the web portal includes a user interface, the user interface being customizable based on interface input from a user (see col. 3, lines 34-38, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 23, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the user interface includes links contained in the bookshelf (see fig.2 and corresponding text, Horovitz).

Regarding claim 24, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the terminology data relates to airplane technologies (see col. 47, lines 44-65, Wical). “Industry” term is one of many of the terms relate to various aspects of airplane manufacturing and design. Thus, the terminology data relates to aircraft technologies.

Regarding claim 25, Horovitz discloses a method for managing technologies among a plurality of individuals operating within a common collaboration group or within different collaboration groups, the method comprising the steps of: populating a card catalog (col. 5, lines 47-54, Horovitz) over a networking connection based on collaboration input (col. 6, lines 36-37) from a plurality of independent stewards (col.4, lines 50-62); maintaining a bookshelf of links over the networking connection based on entries in the card catalog (col.6, lines 45-62, Horovitz); and accessing the bookshelf based on search input from a user (col. 4, lines 52-53 and col. 5, lines 40-43, Horovitz). Please note that “LinkGraph” corresponds to “card catalog”, “categories page” corresponds to “bookshelf of links”.

Horovitz, however, does not disclose a controlled lexicon containing technology-specific terminology data. Wical, on the other hand, discloses a knowledge catalog processor accesses the knowledge catalog to classify input terminology (see abstract, col. 41, lines 25-53, Wical) that reads on a controlled lexicon containing technology-specific terminology data. It would



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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Horovitz to include the claimed feature as taught by Wical. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide an efficient system that has an ability to scan the multiple information (see col. 2, lines 44-45, Horovitz).

Horovitz and Wical combination does not disclose different users within common or different collaboration groups to access information stored in the card catalog. Nichols discloses private network exchange with multiple service providers, collaboration applications and a directory service that allows the users access to collaboration services on ANX network catalog ([0074]; [0093]; [0140] and [0164], Nichols). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Horovitz and Wical to include the claimed feature as taught by Nichols. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide the users cooperative capabilities of sharing information in private network (paragraphs [0014] and [0093], Nichols).

Regarding claim 26, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the steps of storing technology-specific terminology data to a controlled lexicon (see abstract, col. 41, lines 25-53, Wical).

Regarding claim 27, Horovitz/Wical/Nichols combination discloses the method wherein the stewards and the users are part of an overall enterprise group (col.4, lines 50-62, Horovitz).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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1. Miller et al. (US Pub. 2005/0055306 A1) disclose user-defined dynamic collaborative environments.

2. Lentini et al. (US Pub. 2002/0091835 A1) disclose system and method for Internet content collaboration.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2163

October 28, 2005

  
UYEN LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER